(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SUNDER LAL PATWA) : (a) The High Powered Task Force had recommended various medium and long-term measures for the affected areas of Orissa in the fields of health, water & sanitation, shelter, food & nutrition, education, agriculture, environment and social sectors. In accordance with the recommendations of the Task Force, the Orissa Cyclone Reconstruction Authority has been set up for rehabilitation and reconstruction in the State including finalisation and implementation of the reconstruction programme. The State Government has recently set up the Orissa State Disaster Mitigation Authority to coordinate the restoration and reconstruction work.

(b) and (c) No report regarding people taking shelter under polythene covers and deaths due to sun stroke have been received fom the State Government.

Cooperative Industrial Units

*550. SHRI LAJPAT RAI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is true that Cooperative Industrial Units do not have an access to BIFR;

(b) if so, whether NCDC propose to set a Revival Fund on the pattern of BIFR to assist sick Cooperative Industrial Units; and

(c) why NCDC does not provide concessional financial assistance to the State for revival of sick Cooperative Industrial Units ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SUNDER LAL PATWA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. At present there is no such proposal under consideration.

(c) The NCDC does not have access to concessional finance and hence it is not possible for NCDC to provide any such assistance for revival of sick cooperative industrial units.

Social Security Net for People Below Poverty Line

*551. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any programme for the expansion of the social security net of the people below poverty line (BPL);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether it will be extended to education, health care, food and subsistence allowance ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT IN ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE) : (a) and (b) In order to provide social security to the poor the National Social Assistance Programme was launched in the country. The programme introduced on 15th August, 1995 has three components : (i) National Old Age Pension Scheme (NOAPS); (ii) National Family Benefit Scheme (NFBS); and (iii) National Maternity Benefit Scheme (NMBS). The Government also proposes to launch a Scheme titled 'Annapurna' for the benefit of indigent senior citizens who are eligible for pension under NOAPS but do not receive it. The senior citizens would get 10 kg food grains per months free of cost under the Scheme.

In addition, poverty alleviation programmes which include Self Employment and Wage Employment Programmes taken up both in rural and urban areas are part of the social security net that has evolved in the country over time. The Poverty Alleviation Programmes have been recently restructured and redesigned in order to improve their efficacy/impact on the poor. In rural areas, Swaranjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) a holistic programme covering all aspects of micro enterprise has been introduced with effect from 1-4-1999. The Swaran Jayanti Shahri Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY) has been launched w.e.f. 1-12-1997 in urban areas to encourage unemployed and under employees urban youth to set up micro-enterprises. The Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) provides assistance to unemployed youth both in urban and rural areas. Programmes to assist especially vulnerable groups, such as Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Women have also been undertaken. In addition to the Schemes which seek to provide self-employment opportunities to the people below poverty line, Employment Assurance Scheme in rural areas, and Urban Wage Employment Programme under SJSRY in urban areas, provide wage employment to people below poverty line.

The Government has taken up programmes under Basic Minimum Services to provide safe drinking water in rural and urban areas, 100 per cent coverage in primary health care facilities, public housing, supplementry nutrition via extension of mid-day meal programmes in primary schools, provision of connectivity to all unconnected villages and habitations and Public Distribution System to provide food security to people below poverty line. From the year 2000-01, a new initiative in the form of Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana (PMGY) has been introduced which essentially builds on the components of BMS and re-orients into a project mode to give greater focus in providing basic services to the people. The PMGY would cover rural housing, rural drinking water, primary health, elementary education and rural roads.

Further, various enactments and statutory provisions provide safeguards to people engaged in formal and non-formal economic activities including those below poverty line.

(c) Education has been given a very high priority in the Ninth Plan. Universalisation of elementary education, achievement of adult literacy, raising the quality of education at all levels, upliftment of educational status of disadvantaged groups including girls and disabled childern and vocationalisation of education have been accorded a place of prominence. The Primary Health Care Infrastructure to provide health care to the people forms part of the Special Action Plan for the Ninth Plan Period. In addition, initiatives to control specific diseases which show a higher inciudence in below poverty line population have also been taken. The Public Distribution System has been an important instrument of Government Policy for ensuring availability of food grains at affordable prices to the people. The people living below poverty line are covered under the Targeted Public Distribution System which ensures a minimum of 10 kg. of food grains per month at specially subsidised prices.

Sugarcane Farmers Defrauding Banks

*552. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD : Will the MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether scandal of hundreds of sugarcane farmers defrauding banks by joining field staff of the Nizamabad (Andhra Pradesh) Co-operative Sugar Factory has been reported;

(b) if so, the action taken against the cane growers and field staff; and